

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

[Note that composite units (gray-stippled areas) are designated on map by composite label indicating both overlying sediment cover and lower (older) unit, separated by slash (for example, Qms/TKu indicates that thin sheet of Qms overlies TKu)]

af Artificial fill (Holocene)—Rock, sand, and mud; placed and (or) dredged. Also includes seafloor significantly modified by human activity.

Qms Marine nearshore and shelf deposits (Holocene)—Mostly sand; ripples common.

Qmsc Coarse-grained marine nearshore and shelf deposits (Holocene)—Predominantly coarse sand, gravel, and cobbles. Recognized primarily on basis of high backscatter and flat relief.

Qmsf Fine-grained marine nearshore and shelf deposits (Holocene)—Predominantly mud to muddy sand.

Qmsh Marine shelf sorted bedforms (Holocene)—Inferred to be coarse sand and possibly gravel; found as single depressions or in fields of depressions interspersed with elevated shelf sediments (unit Qms). Although no direct camera observations of these bedforms were made in map area, their composition is inferred from similar features directly observed elsewhere on California shelf.

Qmsl Marine shelf hummocky deposits (Holocene)—Sand and mud; forms hummocky surface relief on shelf over large areas (4 to 8 km²).

Qmc Marine slope deposits (Holocene)—Sand and mud; found offshore of shelf break (more than about 80 m deep) on seaward-sloping (6°–8°) surface.

Qmp Marine channel deposits (Holocene)—Predominantly coarse sand; characterized by high backscatter.

Qms/TKu Marine pockmarks (Holocene)—Sand and mud; forms pockmarks on outer shelf and slope. Pockmarks are solitary, circular features that are found along trace of Hosgri Fault and, thus, may be associated with fluid venting along fault zone.

Qls Landslide deposits (Holocene and latest Pleistocene)—May represent various forms of submarine sediment instabilities, including slumps, slides, and collapse depressions. Characterized by hummocky bathymetry and headscarp incised into shelf (unit Qmsl) or slope (unit Qmsf) deposits.

TKu Pismo Formation, Miguelito Member (Pliocene and late Miocene)—Predominantly brown claystone and siltstone, shale, locally thin-bedded chert, and diatomaceous shale. Stippled areas (composite unit Qms/TKu) indicate where thin sheets of Qms overlie unit.

Tus Sedimentary bedrock (Tertiary)—Includes sedimentary rocks from the Monterey and Pismo Formations; distinguished on basis of bedding character in shallow seismic-reflection data and (or) multibeam imagery. Stippled areas (composite unit Qms/Tus) indicate where thin sheets of Qms overlie unit.

TKu Bedrock, undivided (Tertiary and Cretaceous)—May include rocks of any of Tertiary to Jurassic-age units mapped herein, as well as of Oligocene diatomite and diatomite flow facies associated with Isla Hill–Morro Rock complex (Hall, 1973a). Stippled areas (composite unit Qms/TKu) indicate where thin sheets of Qms overlie unit.

Kal Unmetamorphosed and interbedded shale (Late Cretaceous)—Sandstone and interbedded shale and siltstone; mapped in San Simeon and Morro Bay areas, in accordance with adjacent onland mapping (Hall, 1973a, 1974). Correlated with the unmetamorphosed and interbedded claystone unit (Kalo), mapped in Point San Luis area (see sheet 5). Stippled areas (composite unit Qms/Kal) indicate where thin sheets of Qms overlie unit.

Klf Franciscan Complex (Cretaceous and Jurassic)—Includes fine- to coarse-grained sandstone, siltstone, and some claystone, as well as melange. Melange is mainly composed of sheared claystone that contains exotic clasts of conglomerate, basaltic, schist, gneiss, chert, graywacke, and shale. Stippled areas (composite unit Qms/Klf) indicate where thin sheets of Qms overlie unit.

Jo Coast Range ophiolite (Jurassic)—Includes diabase, basalt, microdiorite, dikes and sills, diorite, and serpentinite. Ophiolite sequences mapped onland at Point Piedras Blancas and Point San Luis (Hall, 1973a, 1976). Serpentinite, which often is faulted and sheared within the Franciscan Complex, is found in lenses along fault zones. Stippled areas (composite unit Qms/Jo) indicate where thin sheets of Qms overlie unit.

EXPLANATION OF MAP SYMBOLS

— Contact—Approximately located

— Fault (offshore)—Solid where location is certain, dashed where location is inferred, dotted where location is concealed, queried where existence is questionable

— Fault (onshore)—Solid where location is certain, long-dashed where location is approximate, short-dashed where location is inferred

— Folds—Solid where location is certain, dotted where location is concealed

— Antiform

— Synform

— Headscarp of submarine landslide—Sharp, distinct scarp at head of landslide; in places, forms contact between landslide deposits (Qls) and other units. Headscarp points downscarp

— Shelf break—Boundary between continental shelf and upper slope; mapped on basis of distinct break in slope that is visible in multibeam bathymetry or on seismic-reflection profiles. Forms contact between shelf (Qms) and slope (Qmsf) deposits. Coincident with submarine landslide scarps offshore of Point Estero

— Slope break—Break in slope along top of latest Pleistocene nearshore bar

— Boundary of multibeam-bathymetry survey

— Area of “no data”—Areas not mapped owing to insufficient high-resolution seafloor mapping data

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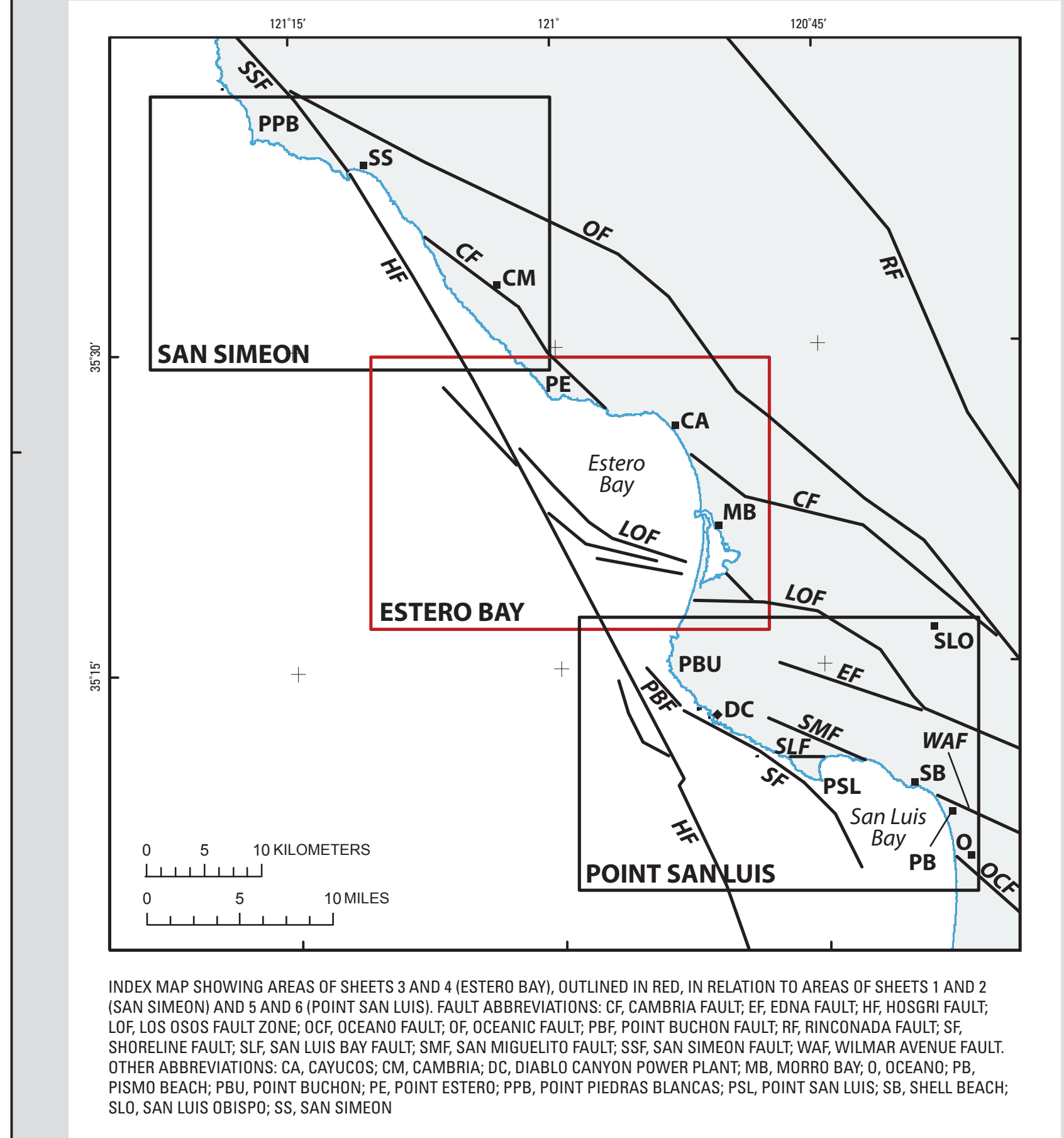
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Bathymetry shaded relief imagery 10X vertical exaggeration from gridded multibeam bathymetry acquired, processed, rectified, and distributed by California State University, Monterey Bay, Seafloor Mapping Lab (CSUMB) and by U.S. Geological Survey (Phantom and others, 2013).

Bathymetric contours derived from gridded multibeam bathymetry (CSUMB), 12 arc-second NOAA Terrain Innovation DEM (Foley and others, 2011), and regional 3 arc-second NOAA DEM (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Geophysical Data Center, 2011).

Elevation data from U.S. Geological Survey National Elevation Database (1/3 arc-second), non illumination from northwest (SRTM30 PLUS), above horizon.

Universal Transverse Mercator projection, Zone 10N.

NOT INTENDED FOR NAVIGATIONAL USE

Offshore Geology and Geomorphology of Estero Bay Map Area

Offshore Geology and Geomorphology from Point Piedras Blancas to Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo County, California

By
Janet T. Watt, Samuel Y. Johnson, Stephen R. Hartwell, and Michelle Roberts
2015



Offshore geology and geomorphology acquired by Janet T. Watt and Samuel Y. Johnson, 2010–2012. Offshore faults from University of California and not available U.S. Geological Survey and California Geological Survey, 2010.

GIS database and digital cartography by Janet T. Watt, Stephen R. Hartwell, and Thomas Prosser.

Edited by Terje A. Lindquist.

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